



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

December 4, 2008

Student Council President

Dear Student Leader,

A coalition of Idaho's leading industries is soliciting nominations for the ninth annual **GIANTS (Governor's Industry Award for Notable Teaching in Science) Award** that will recognize teachers who integrate real life applications of science and technology in their classrooms. Who would know better which teachers in the school are most effective at sharing their love of science than the students in classrooms? We are seeking nominations for this award only from student councils in secondary schools throughout Idaho. **The governor will present to one middle school teacher and one high school teacher the GIANTS award, which includes a \$2000 cash prize, early in the spring of 2009.** Additionally, the nominating student council for both awardees will receive a cash stipend of \$500.

Also, one teacher at the elementary, middle and high school will receive an Honorable Mention award. The teacher so recognized will receive a cash prize of \$500 and the nominating student council will receive a \$100 cash stipend. Applicants are being sought statewide. Please see the enclosed listing of the winners from previous years.

Your council will need to submit only three items to complete the application. They are as follows:

1. A copy of the teacher's resume that you are nominating. Each resume must include the following information: (A sample template for the resume is included with this letter). Resumes longer than two pages can detract from the competitiveness of the application.
 - ❖ Education background
 - ❖ Professional memberships
 - ❖ Student organizations
 - ❖ Special programs used in the classroom to enhance science learning
 - ❖ Curriculum, academic, or professional leadership roles
2. A letter of support from your school's principal. This letter should include or address:
 - a. A statement of support for the completed application packet.
 - b. The science/technology connection the nominated teacher brings to the classroom through: internships, use of guest speakers, or some other tangible connections between the material taught in the classroom and its application in the larger world of science and technology. Special attention will be given to teachers connecting with business and industry.

3. A letter from your student council demonstrating:
 - a. A description of activities implemented by the teacher that fosters real world connections between science and technology and the material covered in the classroom. How does the teacher help students realize the value of science beyond the classroom? How does the teacher utilize resources from business and technology?
 - b. Evidence of impact the nominated teacher has had on opening the world of science and technology to students. Suitable examples would include: increased enrollment in subsequent science classes, numbers of students expressing an interest in a science/technology career path as a result of this teacher, etc.

Should you have any questions as you prepare your school's application please feel free to contact me. **Please submit five copies** of your application materials arranged in the order listed above and send them to my office post marked no later than **February 16, 2009**. We look forward to receiving your school's nomination for GIANTS and the opportunity to recognize the teachers who are making science education in Idaho real and exciting!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith
Science Coordinator
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GIANTS is proudly sponsored by the Governor's Office, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Micron Technology, Washington Division of URS, Hewlett-Packard Company, Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, and the Idaho Commerce and Labor's Office of Science and Technology

Resume Model (organization, length and formatting are used for evaluation)

Name
School address
GIANTS Award 2009

1. Education background

- Bachelors
- Masters
- Years teaching
- Specialized advanced science courses
- Grades taught (secondary – also include individual courses taught)

2. Professional Memberships

- Professional Memberships
- Internships
- Civic Memberships

3. Student organizations

- Science or other club advisor
- Academic coach (Science Olympiad, Invention Convention, etc.)

4. Special programs used in the classroom to enhance science learning

***Greater Emphasis for award consideration**

- Guest speakers
- Field trips
- Science career awareness
- Special topic science lessons or research projects

5. Curriculum, academic, or professional leadership roles

- Idaho Science Teachers Association Board
- State Board of Education Standards Development Committees
- Curriculum development (school – State Department of Education)
- Presenter at local, state, or national conferences
- Publications

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